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Labor Market Digest, May 2006

Maine Department of Labor

Maine Center for Workforce Research and Information

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MAINE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Labor Market Information

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*A publication of
the*

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Labor Market
Information Services

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LABOR MARKET DIGEST

March Data

May 2006

Foreign-Born Workers

Although little data exists on the number of undocumented immigrants, the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, regularly collects data on the number of foreign-born persons in the United States.

The foreign born are persons who reside in the United States but who were born outside the country or one of its outlying areas, such as Puerto Rico or Guam, to parents who were not U.S. citizens. The foreign born include legally-admitted immigrants, refugees, temporary residents such as students and temporary workers, and undocumented immigrants. The survey data, however, do not separately identify the number of persons in these categories.

In 2005, foreign-born workers made up about 15 percent of the U.S. civilian labor force, little different from a year earlier. Between 2004 and 2005, the number of foreign-born labor force participants edged up by 609,000, about a third of the total labor force gain. Since 2000, the foreign born have accounted for 46 percent of the net gain in the total labor force.

The unemployment rate of the foreign born declined from 5.5 percent in 2004 to 4.6 percent in 2005. Over the year, the unemployment rate for foreign-born men declined from 5.0 percent to 4.1 percent, and the rate for foreign-born women declined from 6.3 percent to 5.4 percent. Among the native-born, the unemployment rate declined from 5.5 percent to 5.2 percent. In 2005, the unemployment rate of the foreign born was lower than that of the native born for the first time since the data series began in 1996.

In 2005, the median usual weekly earnings of foreign-born full-time wage and salary workers were \$511, compared with \$677 for the native born. Among men, median earnings were \$523 per week for the foreign born compared with \$760 for the native born; the median for foreign-born women was \$487, compared with \$596 for the native born.

*There was a net gain
of 32,000 civilian labor force
participants in New England
due to an increase in the
number of foreign-born
participants...*

Of the four census regions in the United States, only the northeast recorded a net decline in the native-born civilian noninstitutional population 16 years of age or older and the civilian labor force between 2004 and 2005. The foreign-born population and civilian labor force grew in all four regions.

New England, part of the Northeast census region, registered a population increase of 79,000 for the foreign born and a decline of 37,000 for the native born between 2004 and 2005. There was a net gain of 32,000 civilian labor force participants in New England due to an increase in the number of foreign-born participants; the number of foreign-born participants increased by 63,000 while the number of native-born participants declined by 31,000.

See related table on page 8.

Source: "Foreign-Born Workers: Labor Force Characteristics in 2005," News, U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, April 14, 2006

Civilian Labor Force, Employed, and Unemployed by Labor Market Area, Not Seasonally Adjusted

| AREA | CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ¹ | | | EMPLOYED ² | | | UNEMPLOYED ³ | | | UNEMPLOYMENT RATE ⁴ | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------------|------------|------------|
| | Mar 06 | Feb 06 | Mar 05 | Mar 06 | Feb 06 | Mar 05 | Mar 06 | Feb 06 | Mar 05 | Mar 06 | Feb 06 | Mar 05 |
| LABOR MARKET AREAS⁵ | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Augusta | 43,730 | 44,130 | 43,440 | 41,660 | 41,680 | 41,010 | 2,070 | 2,450 | 2,430 | 4.7% | 5.6% | 5.6% |
| Augusta-Waterville Combined ⁶ | 66,190 | 66,660 | 65,420 | 62,960 | 62,870 | 61,640 | 3,230 | 3,780 | 3,780 | 4.9 | 5.7 | 5.8 |
| Bangor | 72,900 | 73,300 | 71,000 | 69,400 | 69,400 | 67,200 | 3,400 | 3,800 | 3,700 | 4.7 | 5.3 | 5.3 |
| Belfast | 13,790 | 13,830 | 13,530 | 12,970 | 12,880 | 12,620 | 820 | 950 | 910 | 5.9 | 6.9 | 6.7 |
| Boothbay Harbor | 3,820 | 3,740 | 3,660 | 3,580 | 3,470 | 3,390 | 240 | 270 | 270 | 6.3 | 7.2 | 7.4 |
| Bridgton-Paris | 14,200 | 14,230 | 13,960 | 13,370 | 13,240 | 13,080 | 830 | 990 | 880 | 5.8 | 7.0 | 6.3 |
| Brunswick | 34,300 | 34,190 | 34,090 | 32,800 | 32,450 | 32,440 | 1,500 | 1,740 | 1,660 | 4.4 | 5.1 | 4.9 |
| Calais | 6,160 | 6,170 | 6,250 | 5,600 | 5,590 | 5,520 | 560 | 590 | 720 | 9.1 | 9.5 | 11.6 |
| Camden | 8,150 | 8,100 | 7,820 | 7,760 | 7,660 | 7,440 | 390 | 440 | 390 | 4.8 | 5.4 | 4.9 |
| Conway, NH-ME ⁷ | 3,730 | 3,770 | 3,690 | 3,610 | 3,650 | 3,540 | 120 | 120 | 150 | 3.2 | 3.2 | 4.1 |
| Dover-Foxcroft | 9,580 | 9,610 | 9,510 | 8,890 | 8,810 | 8,750 | 690 | 810 | 760 | 7.2 | 8.4 | 8.0 |
| Ellsworth | 28,240 | 28,280 | 27,930 | 26,190 | 25,870 | 25,730 | 2,040 | 2,410 | 2,200 | 7.2 | 8.5 | 7.9 |
| Farmington | 17,980 | 18,220 | 18,200 | 16,980 | 17,070 | 17,110 | 1,000 | 1,150 | 1,090 | 5.6 | 6.3 | 6.0 |
| Houlton | 8,620 | 8,520 | 8,570 | 8,040 | 7,900 | 7,990 | 580 | 630 | 580 | 6.8 | 7.4 | 6.8 |
| Lewiston-Auburn | 57,100 | 57,300 | 56,200 | 54,200 | 54,100 | 53,200 | 2,900 | 3,200 | 3,100 | 5.0 | 5.6 | 5.4 |
| Lincoln | 3,680 | 3,670 | 3,650 | 3,450 | 3,410 | 3,360 | 240 | 260 | 290 | 6.4 | 7.0 | 7.8 |
| Machias | 8,450 | 8,330 | 8,130 | 7,710 | 7,500 | 7,270 | 740 | 830 | 860 | 8.7 | 10.0 | 10.6 |
| Madawaska | 3,030 | 2,950 | 3,060 | 2,860 | 2,760 | 2,830 | 170 | 190 | 230 | 5.5 | 6.3 | 7.6 |
| Millinocket | 3,980 | 3,950 | 4,040 | 3,620 | 3,550 | 3,620 | 360 | 400 | 420 | 9.0 | 10.1 | 10.3 |
| Pittsfield | 7,690 | 7,750 | 7,610 | 7,070 | 7,040 | 6,910 | 620 | 710 | 710 | 8.1 | 9.2 | 9.3 |
| Portland-South Portland-Biddeford | 204,100 | 204,700 | 201,500 | 196,900 | 196,400 | 193,300 | 7,200 | 8,200 | 8,200 | 3.5 | 4.0 | 4.1 |
| Portland-South Portland-Sanford Combined ⁶ | 215,500 | 216,100 | 212,900 | 207,600 | 207,100 | 203,900 | 7,900 | 9,000 | 9,000 | 3.7 | 4.2 | 4.2 |
| Portsmouth, NH-ME ⁷ | 9,530 | 9,520 | 9,230 | 9,270 | 9,220 | 8,880 | 270 | 300 | 350 | 2.8 | 3.1 | 3.8 |
| Presque Isle | 25,450 | 25,350 | 25,270 | 23,860 | 23,620 | 23,590 | 1,590 | 1,740 | 1,680 | 6.3 | 6.8 | 6.6 |
| Rochester-Dover, NH-ME ⁷ | 11,390 | 11,220 | 11,150 | 11,050 | 10,810 | 10,620 | 340 | 410 | 530 | 3.0 | 3.7 | 4.7 |
| Rockland | 12,700 | 12,650 | 12,530 | 12,040 | 11,890 | 11,890 | 660 | 770 | 640 | 5.2 | 6.1 | 5.1 |
| Rumford | 11,050 | 11,110 | 10,810 | 10,360 | 10,350 | 10,120 | 690 | 760 | 690 | 6.2 | 6.8 | 6.4 |
| Saint George | 1,460 | 1,460 | 1,440 | 1,400 | 1,380 | 1,380 | 60 | 80 | 60 | 4.4 | 5.4 | 4.2 |
| Sanford | 11,440 | 11,460 | 11,330 | 10,760 | 10,660 | 10,530 | 680 | 810 | 800 | 5.9 | 7.0 | 7.1 |
| Skowhegan | 14,720 | 14,800 | 14,700 | 13,510 | 13,460 | 13,350 | 1,210 | 1,350 | 1,360 | 8.2 | 9.1 | 9.2 |
| Waldoboro | 9,790 | 9,680 | 9,510 | 9,370 | 9,200 | 9,100 | 420 | 480 | 410 | 4.3 | 5.0 | 4.3 |
| Waterville | 22,460 | 22,520 | 21,980 | 21,300 | 21,190 | 20,630 | 1,160 | 1,330 | 1,350 | 5.2 | 5.9 | 6.1 |
| York | 16,410 | 16,220 | 15,990 | 15,710 | 15,400 | 15,200 | 700 | 820 | 790 | 4.3 | 5.1 | 4.9 |
| MAINE | 705,900 | 707,000 | 696,000 | 671,400 | 667,700 | 657,600 | 34,600 | 39,400 | 38,500 | 4.9 | 5.6 | 5.5 |
| UNITED STATES (000) | 150,027 | 149,686 | 147,745 | 142,772 | 141,994 | 139,759 | 7,255 | 7,692 | 7,986 | 4.8 | 5.1 | 5.4 |

¹ Civilian labor force, employed, and unemployed estimates are by place of residence. Current year estimates are preliminary; year-ago estimates are revised. Items may not add due to rounding. All data exclude members of the Armed Forces.

² Total employment includes nonfarm wage and salary workers, agricultural workers, unpaid family workers, domestics, the self employed, and workers involved in labor disputes.

³ People are classified as unemployed, regardless of their eligibility for unemployment benefits or public assistance, if they meet all of the following criteria: 1) they were not employed during the survey week; 2) they were available for work at that time; and 3) they made specific efforts to find employment some time during the prior four weeks. Persons laid off from their former jobs and awaiting recall and those expecting to report to a job within 30 days need not be looking for work to be counted as unemployed.

⁴ The unemployment rate is calculated by dividing the total number of unemployed by the total civilian labor force and is expressed as a percent.

⁵ Bangor; Lewiston-Auburn; Portland-South Portland-Biddeford; Portsmouth, NH-ME; and Rochester-Dover, NH-ME are Metropolitan Statistical Areas. Augusta, Brunswick, Rockland, Sanford, and Waterville are Micropolitan Statistical Areas.

⁶ Adjacent metropolitan and/or micropolitan statistical areas that have a specific level of economic integration, but still retain separate identities.

⁷ Maine portion of the area which includes towns in both Maine and New Hampshire.

Source: Maine Department of Labor, Labor Market Information Services, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Civilian Labor Force, Employed, and Unemployed by County, Not Seasonally Adjusted¹

| AREA | CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE | | | EMPLOYED | | | UNEMPLOYED | | | UNEMPLOYMENT RATE | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|------------|------------|
| | Mar 06 | Feb 06 | Mar 05 | Mar 06 | Feb 06 | Mar 05 | Mar 06 | Feb 06 | Mar 05 | Mar 06 | Feb 06 | Mar 05 |
| COUNTY | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Androscoggin | 58,100 | 58,320 | 57,310 | 55,190 | 55,060 | 54,190 | 2,900 | 3,260 | 3,130 | 5.0% | 5.6% | 5.5% |
| Aroostook | 36,110 | 35,880 | 35,940 | 33,860 | 33,390 | 33,510 | 2,250 | 2,490 | 2,430 | 6.2 | 6.9 | 6.8 |
| Cumberland | 156,830 | 157,130 | 154,910 | 151,430 | 150,980 | 148,790 | 5,400 | 6,150 | 6,110 | 3.4 | 3.9 | 3.9 |
| Franklin | 15,270 | 15,490 | 15,440 | 14,450 | 14,530 | 14,560 | 820 | 960 | 880 | 5.3 | 6.2 | 5.7 |
| Hancock | 28,440 | 28,490 | 28,080 | 26,390 | 26,070 | 25,900 | 2,050 | 2,410 | 2,180 | 7.2 | 8.5 | 7.8 |
| Kennebec | 63,560 | 64,020 | 62,870 | 60,480 | 60,410 | 59,270 | 3,090 | 3,610 | 3,610 | 4.9 | 5.6 | 5.7 |
| Knox | 21,660 | 21,570 | 21,190 | 20,580 | 20,330 | 20,130 | 1,080 | 1,240 | 1,060 | 5.0 | 5.8 | 5.0 |
| Lincoln | 17,920 | 17,710 | 17,460 | 17,050 | 16,750 | 16,550 | 860 | 970 | 910 | 4.8 | 5.4 | 5.2 |
| Oxford | 29,410 | 29,570 | 28,880 | 27,780 | 27,690 | 27,160 | 1,640 | 1,880 | 1,720 | 5.6 | 6.3 | 5.9 |
| Penobscot | 80,030 | 80,370 | 78,170 | 75,990 | 75,840 | 73,760 | 4,040 | 4,530 | 4,410 | 5.1 | 5.6 | 5.6 |
| Piscataquis | 7,640 | 7,650 | 7,580 | 7,090 | 7,020 | 6,970 | 550 | 630 | 610 | 7.2 | 8.3 | 8.0 |
| Sagadahoc | 18,770 | 18,710 | 18,630 | 17,930 | 17,730 | 17,720 | 850 | 980 | 910 | 4.5 | 5.3 | 4.9 |
| Somerset | 24,880 | 25,030 | 24,760 | 22,970 | 22,880 | 22,590 | 1,910 | 2,150 | 2,170 | 7.7 | 8.6 | 8.7 |
| Waldo | 19,710 | 19,740 | 19,350 | 18,510 | 18,390 | 18,000 | 1,190 | 1,350 | 1,360 | 6.1 | 6.9 | 7.0 |
| Washington | 15,430 | 15,320 | 15,180 | 14,040 | 13,810 | 13,510 | 1,390 | 1,510 | 1,670 | 9.0 | 9.9 | 11.0 |
| York | 112,190 | 112,050 | 110,310 | 107,630 | 106,790 | 104,980 | 4,560 | 5,260 | 5,330 | 4.1 | 4.7 | 4.8 |
| MAINE | 705,900 | 707,000 | 696,000 | 671,400 | 667,700 | 657,600 | 34,600 | 39,400 | 38,500 | 4.9 | 5.6 | 5.5 |
| UNITED STATES (000) | 150,027 | 149,686 | 147,745 | 142,772 | 141,994 | 139,759 | 7,255 | 7,692 | 7,986 | 4.8 | 5.1 | 5.4 |

¹ See page 2 for footnotes 1 through 4 and source.

Area Analyst's Corner

Central Maine Ken Bridges (207) 624-5199

Christmas Tree Shops and Bed, Bath, and Beyond are expected to open new stores at the former Ames Department Store building in Augusta by this fall. ♦ A new federal grant program, **Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED)**, has awarded a \$15 million grant to North Star Alliance to support innovation within the marine trades industry in mid-coast Maine. The grant will benefit boat builders, marine infrastructure, trade associations, and education. ♦ **Radio Shack** has announced that it is closing its Gardiner store, one of four smaller stores it is closing in Maine.

Western Maine Gerard Dennison (207) 753-9045

In Auburn, **Ruby Tuesday** built a new restaurant on a 14-acre lot on Turner Street. The new 5,000 square-foot restaurant seats 280 people and will employ around 90 when it opens in May. **LongHorn Steakhouse** built a new 5,600 square-foot restaurant that employs about 25 at the corner of Turner Street and Mount Auburn Avenue. **T.G.I. Friday's** will be building a new restaurant in the Mount Auburn Plaza off Turner Street and plans to open in November. ♦ **Bank of America** closed its MBNA call center in Farmington in March, resulting in a loss of 95 jobs.

North/East Maine Craig Holland (207) 941-3076

Otelco Inc., a telecommunications company headquartered in Alabama, will acquire Bangor-based **Mid-Maine Communications** in a cash deal worth \$37.8 million. Mid-Maine provides business-to-business telecommunications services from Aroostook County to the Biddeford-Saco area. ♦ **Bank of America** is cutting another 1,900 jobs in three states but it will keep open its MBNA call centers in Orono and Brunswick. ♦ **Evergreen Energy Co.** has purchased the former Beaver Wood Joint Venture plant in Chester. The long-dormant power plant off Route 116 might be revitalized with the purchase of the plant, land, and equipment.

Southern Maine Gerard Dennison (207) 753-9045

Portland-based **Pierce Promotions** plans to add 55 jobs locally. The company was recently purchased by the Omnicon Group of New York. This will bring the number of Maine employees to 195 workers. ♦ The **F.W. Webb Company**, a New England distributor of plumbing, heating, and air conditioning supplies will begin construction of a new 32,000 square-foot building in the Airport Industrial Park in Biddeford. The new facility will replace its existing building in downtown Biddeford and construction is expected to begin in June. ♦ The **General Dynamics Saco** plant has been awarded a \$5.1 million contract to produce replacement barrels for the M242 chain gun on Bradley Fighting Vehicles. The facility employs 280 people; no new hires are anticipated.

Civilian Labor Force, Employed, and Unemployed in Maine, Seasonally Adjusted (in thousands)

| ITEM | 2006 | | | 2005 | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | Mar | Feb | Jan | Dec | Nov | Oct | Sep | Aug | Jul | Jun | May | Apr | Mar |
| Civilian Labor Force | 714.4 | 717.4 | 715.3 | 717.4 | 717.1 | 716.9 | 716.1 | 714.8 | 713.4 | 711.5 | 710.7 | 708.4 | 706.5 |
| Employed | 684.9 | 684.7 | 683.1 | 683.8 | 683.1 | 681.7 | 680.4 | 679.2 | 678.3 | 677.2 | 675.8 | 674.4 | 672.3 |
| Unemployed | 29.5 | 32.7 | 32.2 | 33.7 | 34.0 | 35.1 | 35.7 | 35.6 | 35.0 | 34.3 | 34.9 | 34.0 | 34.2 |
| Unemployment Rate (%) | 4.1 | 4.6 | 4.5 | 4.7 | 4.7 | 4.9 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 4.9 | 4.8 | 4.9 | 4.8 | 4.8 |

¹ See page 2 for footnotes 1 through 4 and source.

Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment in Maine, Seasonally Adjusted¹ (in thousands)

| INDUSTRY | 2006 | | | 2005 | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | Mar | Feb | Jan | Dec | Nov | Oct | Sep | Aug | Jul | Jun | May | Apr | Mar |
| Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment ² | 610.9 | 611.3 | 611.3 | 612.3 | 612.1 | 610.9 | 611.6 | 611.5 | 611.6 | 611.9 | 612.0 | 612.2 | 609.7 |
| Natural Resources | 2.8 | 2.7 | 2.9 | 2.8 | 2.9 | 2.8 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.7 |
| Construction | 30.4 | 30.6 | 30.3 | 30.9 | 30.8 | 30.7 | 30.7 | 30.6 | 30.7 | 30.8 | 30.4 | 30.6 | 30.2 |
| Manufacturing | 59.5 | 59.6 | 59.6 | 59.8 | 59.8 | 59.8 | 60.4 | 60.8 | 61.5 | 61.4 | 61.8 | 62.2 | 62.3 |
| Trade, Transportation and Public Utilities | 125.7 | 125.6 | 125.9 | 126.1 | 125.7 | 125.3 | 125.1 | 124.9 | 124.9 | 124.9 | 125.0 | 125.5 | 125.4 |
| Financial Activities | 34.0 | 33.8 | 33.9 | 33.8 | 33.9 | 33.9 | 34.1 | 34.1 | 34.2 | 34.1 | 34.2 | 34.1 | 34.2 |
| Professional and Business Services | 50.7 | 50.5 | 50.5 | 50.5 | 50.6 | 50.4 | 50.4 | 50.4 | 50.4 | 50.1 | 49.9 | 49.6 | 49.5 |
| Educational and Health Services | 112.4 | 112.2 | 112.5 | 112.7 | 113.1 | 112.6 | 112.5 | 112.6 | 112.3 | 112.4 | 112.6 | 111.9 | 111.3 |
| Leisure and Hospitality Services | 58.6 | 58.7 | 58.7 | 59.5 | 58.9 | 58.3 | 59.0 | 59.0 | 58.9 | 59.1 | 59.0 | 59.3 | 58.9 |
| Government | 105.3 | 105.7 | 105.5 | 105.4 | 105.6 | 105.8 | 105.6 | 105.2 | 105.0 | 105.2 | 104.9 | 104.6 | 104.5 |

¹ See footnotes 1 and 2 on page 7. The nonfarm wage and salary estimate is seasonally adjusted independently. Not all supersectors are seasonally adjusted. Information and other services are not suitable for seasonal adjustment because they have very little seasonal and irregular movement. Source: see page 2.

Maine Unemployment Rate 4.1 Percent in March

State Labor Commissioner Laura Fortman announced that the preliminary seasonally-adjusted March unemployment rate for Maine was 4.1 percent. This compares to a February rate of 4.6 percent and a rate of 4.8 percent for March 2005. The national unemployment rate for March was 4.7 percent.

"Maine's job market remained stable in March, with continued low unemployment," said Commissioner Fortman.

The seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate declined between February and March primarily due to a drop in labor force participation. Unemployment declined by 3,200 while employment rose by 200. The net result was a drop in the number of Maine residents active in the labor force.

Between March 2005 and March 2006, the unemployment rate dropped from 4.8 percent to 4.1 percent. The number of Maine residents employed rose by 12,600, while the number unemployed fell by 4,700.

The number of seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs in Maine was 610,900 for March, compared to 611,300 for February and 609,700 for March 2005. Between March 2005 and March 2006, job gains were registered in professional and business services; health

care and social assistance; local government; transportation, trade, and utilities; and construction. Job losses were recorded in manufacturing, financial activities, and leisure and hospitality services.

Other New England states reporting their seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for March include Vermont, 3.3 percent; New Hampshire, 3.4 percent; Connecticut, 4.6 percent; Massachusetts, 4.9 percent; and Rhode Island, 5.1 percent. The adjusted national rate for March was 4.7 percent, down from 4.8 percent for February and 5.1 percent for March 2005.

The not-seasonally-adjusted Maine unemployment rate for March was 5.0 percent, down from 5.6 percent for February and 5.5 percent for March 2005. The unadjusted national rate was 4.8 percent for March, down from 5.1 percent for February and 5.4 percent for March 2005. Not-seasonally-adjusted March unemployment rates for Maine counties ranged from 3.4 percent in Cumberland County to 9.0 percent in Washington County.

Not-seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs in Maine rose by 1,700 between February and March to 593,300. The largest gains were in leisure and hospitality services, professional and business services, health care and social assistance, and local government.

Selected Regular Unemployment Compensation Program Indicators

| Key Data | Mar 2006 | Feb 2006 | Mar 2005 |
|--------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Average Duration | 14.7 | 14.9 | 14.8 |
| Average Weekly Benefit Amount* | \$242.56 | \$242.02 | \$236.60 |
| Exhaustees | 992 | 717 | 1,340 |

* For totally unemployed claimants, excluding dependency allowances.

Weekly Initial Claims

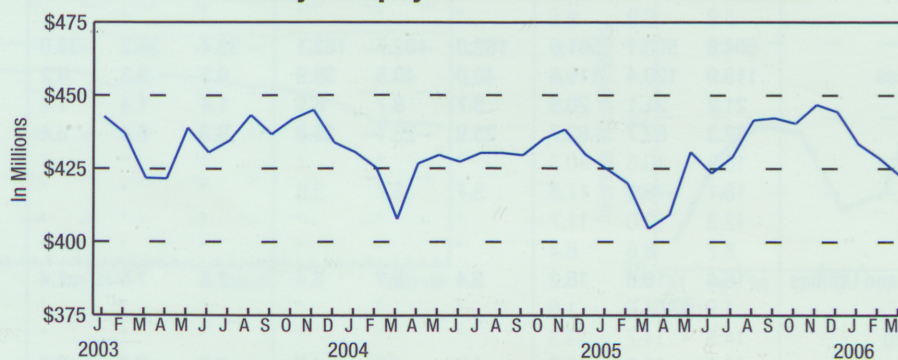
| Week | 4/8 | 4/1 | 3/25 | 3/18 | 3/11 | 3/4 | 2/25 |
|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 2006 | 1,136 | 1,390 | 1,051 | 1,201 | 1,217 | 1,557 | 1,088 |
| Week | 4/9 | 4/2 | 3/26 | 3/19 | 3/12 | 3/5 | 2/26 |
| 2005 | 1,606 | 1,399 | 1,196 | 1,338 | 1,173 | 1,315 | 1,141 |

Continued Claims Less Partial*

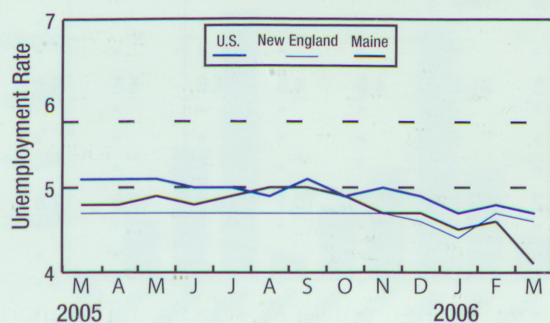
| Mar 2006 | Feb 2006 | Mar 2005 |
|----------|----------|----------|
| 12,622 | 13,311 | 13,356 |

* For the week including the 12th of the month.

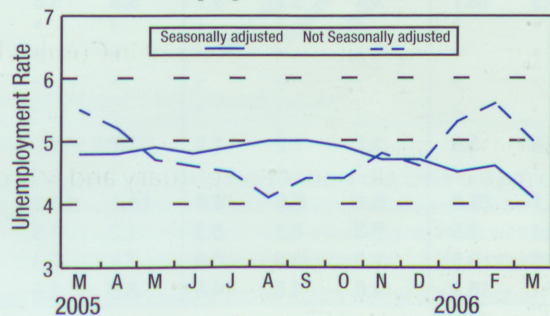
Monthly Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund Balance



Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted



Unemployment Rates for Maine



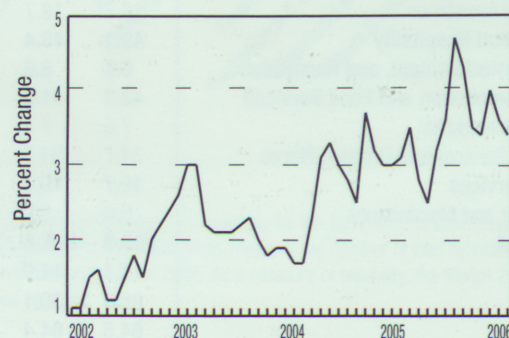
U.S. Consumer Price Index

for all urban consumers (CPI-U)

| Item | Mar 06 | Feb 06 | Mar 05 | Dec 05 |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| (1982-1984 = 100) All Items | 199.8 | 198.7 | 193.3 | 196.8 |

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Percent Change from Prior Month | +0.6% |
| Percent Change from 12 Months Ago | +3.4% |
| Percent change from Last December | +1.5% |

Over-the-Year Change in CPI-U



Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment, Not Seasonally Adjusted (in thousands)

| INDUSTRY | MAINE | | | PORTLAND- SO. PORTLAND MSA | | | LEWISTON- AUBURN MSA | | | BANGOR MSA | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Mar 06 | Feb 06 | Mar 05 | Mar 06 | Feb 06 | Mar 05 | Mar 06 | Feb 06 | Mar 05 | Mar 06 | Feb 06 | Mar 05 |
| Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment¹ | 593.3 | 591.6 | 592.1 | 186.8 | 186.8 | 186.2 | 46.9 | 46.8 | 46.7 | 64.5 | 64.6 | 64.5 |
| Total Private | 484.4 | 483.1 | 484.5 | 160.6 | 160.7 | 160.3 | 40.8 | 40.8 | 40.7 | 50.4 | 50.5 | 50.6 |
| Goods Producing | 88.5 | 88.5 | 90.5 | 23.8 | 24.1 | 24.1 | 8.5 | 8.6 | 8.7 | 6.2 | 6.2 | 6.0 |
| Natural Resources and Mining | 2.9 | 2.9 | 2.8 | * | * | * | * | * | * | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.2 |
| Logging | 2.7 | 2.8 | 2.8 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Construction | 27.1 | 27.0 | 26.7 | * | * | * | * | * | * | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.4 |
| Construction of Buildings | 7.7 | 7.7 | 7.5 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction | 2.4 | 2.3 | 2.8 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Specialty Trade Contractors | 17.0 | 17.0 | 16.4 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Manufacturing | 58.5 | 58.6 | 61.0 | 14.4 | 14.7 | 15.0 | 6.1 | 6.2 | 6.5 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.4 |
| Durable Goods | 31.0 | 31.1 | 32.7 | 7.4 | 7.4 | 7.7 | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Wood Product Manufacturing | 6.2 | 6.3 | 6.6 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Computer and Electronic Product Mfg. | 3.3 | 3.3 | 3.5 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Transportation Equipment Mfg. | 9.1 | 9.2 | 9.5 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Nondurable Goods | 27.5 | 27.5 | 28.3 | 7.0 | 7.3 | 7.3 | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Leather and Allied Product Mfg. | 2.3 | 2.2 | 2.2 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Paper Manufacturing | 8.9 | 8.9 | 9.5 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Service-Providing | 504.8 | 503.1 | 501.6 | 163.0 | 162.7 | 162.1 | 38.4 | 38.2 | 38.0 | 58.3 | 58.4 | 58.5 |
| Trade, Transportation, and Utilities | 119.9 | 120.4 | 119.8 | 40.0 | 40.5 | 39.9 | 9.3 | 9.3 | 9.2 | 14.7 | 14.8 | 14.9 |
| Wholesale Trade | 21.2 | 21.1 | 20.9 | 8.7 | 8.7 | 8.5 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.3 |
| Retail Trade | 82.3 | 82.7 | 82.7 | 25.9 | 26.1 | 26.0 | 6.3 | 6.4 | 6.4 | 9.6 | 9.7 | 9.6 |
| Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.3 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Food and Beverage Stores | 18.1 | 18.1 | 17.8 | 5.7 | 5.7 | 5.6 | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| General Merchandise Stores | 12.3 | 12.0 | 11.7 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Nonstore Retailers | 8.2 | 8.6 | 8.4 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities | 16.4 | 16.6 | 16.2 | 5.4 | 5.7 | 5.4 | 1.6 | 1.5 | 1.4 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 3.0 |
| Utilities | 1.9 | 1.9 | 1.9 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Transportation and Warehousing | 14.5 | 14.7 | 14.3 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Information | 11.1 | 11.2 | 11.2 | 4.7 | 4.7 | 4.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.5 |
| Publishing Industries | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.6 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Financial Activities | 33.7 | 33.5 | 34.0 | 15.6 | 15.6 | 15.5 | 3.1 | 3.2 | 3.1 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 2.2 |
| Finance and Insurance | 26.8 | 26.7 | 27.2 | 12.6 | 12.6 | 12.5 | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Insurance Carriers and Related Activities | 12.0 | 12.0 | 12.1 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Real Estate and Rental and Leasing | 6.9 | 6.8 | 6.8 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Professional and Business Services | 49.3 | 48.8 | 48.2 | 21.4 | 21.3 | 21.1 | 4.6 | 4.5 | 4.6 | 5.5 | 5.6 | 5.5 |
| Professional, Scientific, & Technical Svcs. | 23.7 | 23.6 | 22.9 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Mgmt. of Companies and Enterprises | 5.5 | 5.5 | 5.6 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Admin. & Support & Waste Mgmt. Svcs. | 20.1 | 19.7 | 19.7 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Education and Health Services | 113.1 | 112.7 | 111.9 | 33.3 | 33.2 | 33.1 | 10.1 | 10.1 | 10.0 | 12.9 | 12.8 | 13.2 |
| Educational Services | 18.7 | 18.7 | 18.9 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Health Care and Social Assistance | 94.4 | 94.0 | 93.0 | 29.4 | 29.3 | 29.0 | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Ambulatory Health Care Services | 24.3 | 24.2 | 24.0 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Hospitals | 29.4 | 29.2 | 28.4 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Nursing and Residential Care | 22.0 | 21.9 | 22.3 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Social Assistance | 18.7 | 18.7 | 18.3 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Leisure and Hospitality | 49.1 | 48.4 | 49.2 | 16.0 | 15.5 | 16.1 | 3.3 | 3.2 | 3.1 | 5.6 | 5.6 | 5.3 |
| Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation | 6.8 | 6.8 | 6.9 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Accommodation and Food Services | 42.3 | 41.6 | 42.3 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Accommodation | 7.6 | 7.4 | 7.4 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Food Services and Drinking Places | 34.7 | 34.2 | 34.9 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Other Services | 19.7 | 19.6 | 19.7 | 5.8 | 5.8 | 5.8 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 2.0 |
| Repair and Maintenance | 5.0 | 5.0 | 4.9 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Government | 108.9 | 108.5 | 107.6 | 26.2 | 26.1 | 25.9 | 6.1 | 6.0 | 6.0 | 14.1 | 14.1 | 13.9 |
| Federal | 14.1 | 14.0 | 14.1 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.5 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1.3 |
| State | 30.0 | 30.1 | 29.8 | 6.7 | 6.6 | 6.5 | 1.0 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 7.1 | 7.0 | 6.9 |
| Local ² | 64.8 | 64.4 | 63.7 | 17.1 | 17.1 | 16.9 | 4.8 | 4.8 | 4.8 | 5.8 | 5.8 | 5.7 |

Footnotes: See page 7

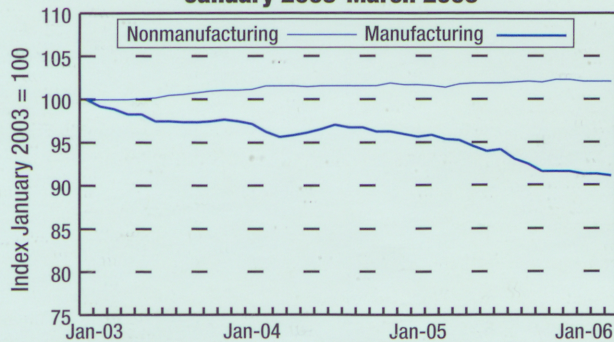
Earnings and Hours of Production Workers in Manufacturing Industries¹ Not Seasonally Adjusted

| AREA AND INDUSTRY | AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS | | | AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS | | | AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS | | | ANNUAL AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|----------|----------|----------------------|--------|--------|-------------------------|---------|---------|--------------------------------|---------|---------|
| | Mar 06 | Feb 06 | Mar 05 | Mar 06 | Feb 06 | Mar 05 | Mar 06 | Feb 06 | Mar 05 | 2005 | 2004 | 2003 |
| STATEWIDE | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Manufacturing | \$728.36 | \$727.87 | \$642.67 | 40.6 | 40.8 | 38.3 | \$17.94 | \$17.84 | \$16.78 | \$17.28 | \$16.97 | \$16.28 |
| Durable Goods | 727.59 | 723.58 | 612.65 | 41.2 | 41.3 | 38.1 | 17.66 | 17.52 | 16.08 | 16.77 | 16.78 | 16.24 |
| Nondurable Goods | 728.57 | 731.64 | 676.27 | 39.9 | 40.2 | 38.6 | 18.26 | 18.20 | 17.52 | 17.81 | 17.17 | 16.31 |
| PORTLAND MSA | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Manufacturing | 584.05 | 566.00 | 556.59 | 40.9 | 40.4 | 40.1 | 14.28 | 14.01 | 13.88 | 14.10 | 13.88 | 13.18 |

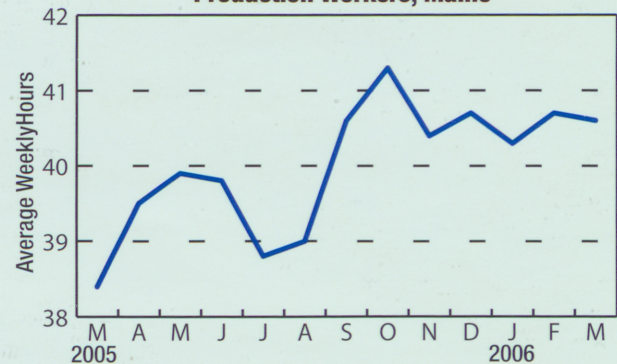
¹ Hours worked and earnings data are computed based on payroll figures for the week including the 12th of the month for manufacturing production workers. Average hourly earnings are calculated on a gross basis, and include such factors as premium pay for overtime and shift differential, as well as changes in basic hourly and incentive rates of pay. Average weekly earnings are the product of weekly hours worked and hourly earnings.

Source: See page 2.

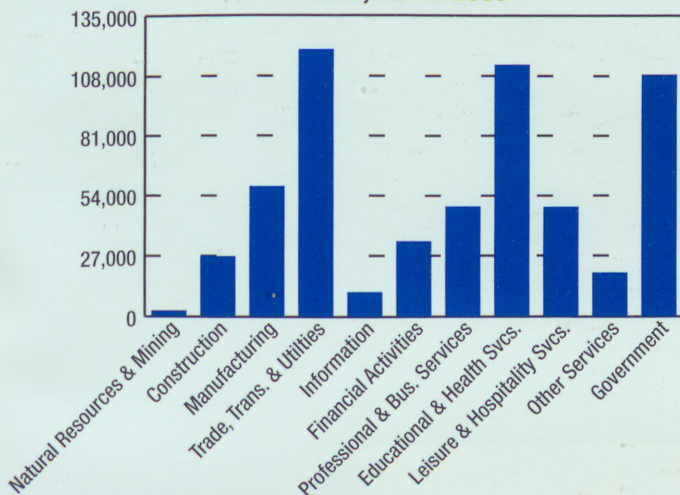
**Nonfarm Employment Trend by Sector
January 2003-March 2006¹**



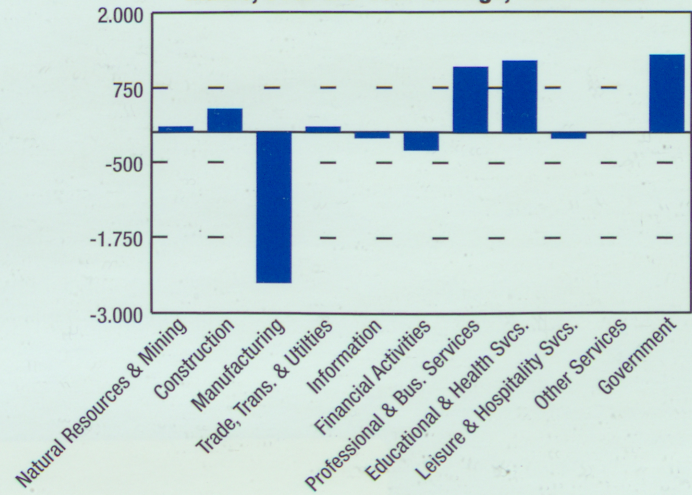
**Hours Worked by Manufacturing
Production Workers, Maine²**



**Nonfarm Employment by Industry Supersector
Maine, March 2006²**



**Nonfarm Employment by Industry Supersector
Maine, Over-the-Year Change, March 2006²**



¹ Seasonally Adjusted. ² Not Seasonally Adjusted.

Footnotes: From page 6.

¹ Nonfarm wage and salary employment estimates include all full- and part-time wage and salary workers who worked during or received pay for the pay period which includes the 12th of the month. Domestic workers in private households, proprietors, the self-employed, and unpaid family workers are excluded. Estimates measure the number of jobs by industry. Current month's estimates are preliminary; prior month and year-ago estimates are revised. These estimates are benchmarked to March 2005. As a measure of reliability, the March 2005 benchmark revision for total nonfarm wage and salary employment was 1.2 percent lower than the original sample-based estimate.

² Regular teachers are included in summer months whether or not specifically paid in those months.

* Where an employment estimate is not entered, either the data is not available in sufficient detail for publication or is nondisclosable by law.

Source: See page 2.

**Employment Status of the Foreign-Born and Native-Born Populations,
16 Years and Over by Census Regions and Divisions
2004-05 Annual Averages**

Numbers in thousands

| Census regions and divisions | 2004 | | | | | | 2005 | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|----------------------|-------------------------|----------|------------|------------------------|---|----------------------|-------------------------|----------|------------|------------------------|
| | Civilian noninstitu- tional population | Civilian labor force | | | | | Civilian noninstitu- tional population | Civilian labor force | | | | |
| | | Total | Participa- tion rate | Employed | Unemployed | | | Total | Participa- tion rate | Employed | Unemployed | |
| | | | | | Number | Unemploy- ment rate | | | | | Number | Unemploy- ment rate |
| Foreign Born | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Northeast | 7,030 | 4,666 | 66.4 | 4,409 | 258 | 5.5 | 7,236 | 4,817 | 66.6 | 4,588 | 229 | 4.8 |
| New England | 1,371 | 933 | 68.0 | 884 | 49 | 5.2 | 1,450 | 996 | 68.6 | 946 | 50 | 5.0 |
| Middle Atlantic | 5,659 | 3,734 | 66.0 | 3,525 | 209 | 5.6 | 5,785 | 3,822 | 66.1 | 3,642 | 180 | 4.7 |
| South | 9,402 | 6,485 | 69.0 | 6,177 | 308 | 4.8 | 9,675 | 6,715 | 69.4 | 6,444 | 272 | 4.0 |
| South Atlantic | 5,682 | 3,930 | 69.2 | 3,741 | 190 | 4.8 | 5,879 | 4,073 | 69.3 | 3,920 | 152 | 3.7 |
| East South Central | 433 | 313 | 72.3 | 307 | 6 | 2.0 | 505 | 354 | 70.2 | 335 | 19 | 5.4 |
| West South Central | 3,286 | 2,241 | 68.2 | 2,129 | 113 | 5.0 | 3,291 | 2,288 | 69.5 | 2,188 | 100 | 4.4 |
| Midwest | 3,460 | 2,364 | 68.3 | 2,226 | 138 | 5.8 | 3,517 | 2,398 | 68.2 | 2,274 | 124 | 5.2 |
| East North Central | 2,636 | 1,759 | 66.7 | 1,658 | 101 | 5.7 | 2,671 | 1,802 | 67.5 | 1,706 | 96 | 5.3 |
| West North Central | 824 | 605 | 73.4 | 568 | 37 | 6.2 | 846 | 596 | 70.5 | 568 | 28 | 4.7 |
| West | 11,870 | 7,918 | 66.7 | 7,444 | 474 | 6.0 | 12,131 | 8,111 | 66.9 | 7,716 | 395 | 4.9 |
| Mountain | 1,897 | 1,308 | 69.0 | 1,244 | 64 | 4.9 | 1,972 | 1,344 | 68.1 | 1,289 | 55 | 4.1 |
| Pacific | 9,974 | 6,610 | 66.3 | 6,200 | 410 | 6.2 | 10,158 | 6,767 | 66.6 | 6,427 | 340 | 5.0 |
| Native Born | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Northeast | 35,520 | 22,956 | 64.6 | 21,738 | 1,218 | 5.3 | 35,409 | 22,903 | 64.7 | 21,796 | 1,108 | 4.8 |
| New England | 9,800 | 6,603 | 67.4 | 6,288 | 315 | 4.8 | 9,763 | 6,572 | 67.3 | 6,261 | 311 | 4.7 |
| Middle Atlantic | 25,721 | 16,353 | 63.6 | 15,450 | 903 | 5.5 | 25,646 | 16,332 | 63.7 | 15,535 | 797 | 4.9 |
| South | 70,414 | 45,150 | 64.1 | 42,747 | 2,403 | 5.3 | 71,597 | 46,084 | 64.4 | 43,740 | 2,344 | 5.1 |
| South Atlantic | 36,308 | 23,330 | 64.3 | 22,206 | 1,125 | 4.8 | 36,968 | 23,909 | 64.7 | 22,797 | 1,112 | 4.7 |
| East South Central | 12,914 | 8,032 | 62.2 | 7,581 | 451 | 5.6 | 13,021 | 8,024 | 61.6 | 7,574 | 450 | 5.6 |
| West South Central | 21,192 | 13,787 | 65.1 | 12,960 | 827 | 6.0 | 21,608 | 14,151 | 65.5 | 13,369 | 783 | 5.5 |
| Midwest | 46,829 | 32,028 | 68.4 | 30,196 | 1,831 | 5.7 | 47,205 | 32,193 | 68.2 | 30,440 | 1,753 | 5.4 |
| East North Central | 32,559 | 21,837 | 67.1 | 20,502 | 1,335 | 6.1 | 32,777 | 21,944 | 66.9 | 20,661 | 1,283 | 5.8 |
| West North Central | 14,270 | 10,190 | 71.4 | 9,695 | 496 | 4.9 | 14,428 | 10,249 | 71.0 | 9,780 | 470 | 4.6 |
| West | 38,830 | 25,835 | 66.5 | 24,316 | 1,519 | 5.9 | 39,313 | 26,097 | 66.4 | 24,732 | 1,365 | 5.2 |
| Mountain | 12,838 | 8,724 | 68.0 | 8,277 | 448 | 5.1 | 13,167 | 8,919 | 67.7 | 8,500 | 418 | 4.7 |
| Pacific | 25,992 | 17,111 | 65.8 | 16,040 | 1,071 | 6.3 | 26,146 | 17,178 | 65.7 | 16,231 | 947 | 5.5 |

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